

Message Text

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21

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SCA-01 H-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

/043 W

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R 041033Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9592

INFO AMECONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5013

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, VS

SUBJECT: AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM

REF: (A) STATE 51685 (B) BANGKOK 2052

1. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE INFORMATION EMANATING FROM SAIGON ABOUT AMERICANS IN RECENT WEEKS. AFTER STAFFDEL DE HAAN PICKED UP BODIES OF TWO MARINES FEBRUARY 22, RICHARD M. MIELKE SENT TERSE MESSAGE TO ALAN DAWSON OF UPI SAYING THAT MOST AMERICANS IN SAIGON WISH THEY WERE DEAD MARINES RIGHT NOW. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WIFE OF RICHARD HUGHES HAS BEEN HEARING FROM HIM REGULARLY, EVERY WEEK. THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER WORD ON WHEN TWO AMERICANS FOREIGN MINISTER BINH PROMISED SENATOR MCGOVERN COULD DEPART, KLASSEN AND BRICKMAN, WILL TRAVEL. KLASSEN LAST INFORMED BANGKOK MENNONITE REPRESENTATIVE LUKE MARTIN (WHO IS NO LONGER HERE) THAT HE EXPECTED TO LEAVE SAIGON WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16.

2. WITH RESPECT TO REF A, WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING CASE OF MRS. LAN THI RAGAN. IN VIEW OF STEADY INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING IN SAIGON, WE DO NOT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HER NEED FOR \$500. (FYI. MIELKE
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HAS BEEN SPENDING AVERAGE OF \$1000 PER MONTH.) QUERIED

PHRASE IN REF B "PREPARED TO DEPART WHEN PERMITTED" MEANS
THAT A PERSON HAS COMPLETED ALL NECESSARY FORMALITIES BUT
CANNOT LEAVE UNTIL AUTHORITIES MAKE UP THEIR MINDS TO ALLOW
IT, A DECISION WHICH MAY BE BASED UPON SUCH FACTORS AS
POLITICS, BRIBERY, OR WHIM. MRS. RAGAN IS CERTAINLY NOT
ALONE IN THIS CATEGORY OF PERSONS TRYING TO LEAVE SAIGON.
WHITEHOUSE

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